

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Expansion: Increase slots and/or capital expense Strategy Recommendation for Grant Award

Summary: It is proposed that First Things First enter into a grant agreement with the Arizona Department of Education to expand pre-school opportunities in the communities of Salome and Quartzsite in La Paz County.

| Applicant | Amount Recommended | Program Description & Rationale for Recommendations |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| The Arizona Department of Education | <p>\$85,000.00 for FY 2013</p> <p>\$264,300 for FY 2014</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation: This application is recommended for award by staff. • Rationale: Partnering with school districts to develop Pre-school programs will build the capacity in the region to provide quality early learning opportunities, especially in communities where access to early childhood education is severely limited. In determining which public school districts to partner with, the council prioritized communities with known shortages, such as those with no Head Start, no regulated child care, and those with the most families waiting to receive child care subsidies. • Brief Description: This strategy addresses the prioritized need for improved access to quality and affordable early childhood education for three and four year olds from low-income families in Salome and Quartzsite. Expansion activities include providing a Mentor to consult with and guide the development of two new pre-school classrooms. This will include an assessment of the identified classroom and playground, assisting schools in equipping and preparing classrooms and playgrounds for licensing, assisting in the hiring and training of qualified staff, providing on-site training and technical assistance for planning and implementing a new program. • Anticipated Outcomes: This strategy will result in the creation of two regulated pre-school classrooms in communities where there are no other regulated childcare centers or homes. • Impacts: The target service number is two new classrooms (one in each community) serving a total of forty children. |

Summary Funding Information:

Total Recommended Funding for the Initial Award Period:

- \$ 85,000 for the first grant period
- \$ 264,300 for the Renewal period

Funding Cycle Information:

- Funding Period: May 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014
- Funding Period: July 1, 2013- June 30, 2014